BS vibration and/or shock absorbing member provided between the disk unit and the inner side surface.

## REMARKS

Claims 1-31 are pending in this application, of which claims 1, 4, 17-19 and 24-27 have been amended and claims 30 and 31 have been added. Claims 10-13, 22 and 23 have been allowed.

Claims 5-9, 15, 20 and 21 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,463,527 to Hager et al. (hereinafter "**Hager et al.**").

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

**Hager et al** discloses a suspension system for disk drives utilizing shear loaded elastomeric supports of different durometer hardnesses and elastomeric pads.

As disclosed in claim 3, lines 37-53:

> As shown in FIGS. 5 and 6, prior to inserting the disk drive 12 into the housing 14, a disk drive assembly 62 is made including the brackets 32 as previously described and shock absorber pads 64. There are a total of 12 shock absorber pads 64 provided in the preferred embodiment on the disk drive assembly 62, 4 on each of the left 28 and right 30 sides, and 2 on each of the top 24 and bottom 26 sides. The shock absorber pads 64 do not span all the way between the disk drive 12 and the housing 14, but an air space exists between the outer surface of each pad 64 and the confronting surface of the housing 14. In the preferred embodiment, this air space is approximately 0.075 inches at the top and bottom and 0.030 inches on each side, and the pads 64 are approximately 0.125 inches thick on the top and bottom and 0.150 inches thick on the sides. Therefore, greater air space and padding is provided on the top and bottom than on the sides.

Furthermore, all pads 64 consist of SORBOTHANE having the same hardness. In contrast, claims 5-9, 20 and 21 of the present invention recite that the side mounted shock absorbers are made of a different material than the bottom mounted shock absorbers, having different vibration and/or

shock absorbing characteristics.

As noted in Applicants' previous response, mounts 68 (erroneously referred to as "shock/vibration member" by the Examiner) are not relevant to the claims of the present invention because mounts 68 are each arranged at a corner between disk drive 12 and housing 14. Therefore, they are not provided "between the disk unit and the inner bottom surface" or "between the disk unit and the inner side surface" of the disk accommodating unit, as required in claims 5-6 and 20-21 of the instant application.

Furthermore, although **Hager et al.** teaches various types of materials with differing hardnesses (or vibration/shock absorbing characteristics), it should be noted that **Hager et al.** does not teach using such various types of materials simultaneously for the shock/vibration members.

In other words, **Hager et al.** is silent regarding the simultaneous use of mutually different materials for the vibration and/or shock absorbing member provided at one location and the vibration and/or shock absorbing member provided at another location within the electronic apparatus.

**Hager et al.** also does not teach that the vibration and/or shock absorbing member provided between the disk unit and the inner side surface is made of a material having a higher vibration absorbing characteristic than a material forming the vibration and/or shock absorbing member provided between the disk unit and the inner bottom surface, and the vibration and/or shock absorbing member provided between the disk unit and the inner bottom surface has a higher shock absorbing characteristic than the material forming the vibration and/or shock absorbing member provided between the disk unit and the inner side surface, as in the present invention.

Claims 30 and 31 have been added to recite these distinctions.

Thus, the §103(a) rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 1-4, 14, 16-21 and 24-29 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,673,171 to Vaughese et al. (hereinafter "**Vaughese et al.**") in view of U.S. Patent 6,021,041 to Genix et al. (hereinafter "**Genix et al.**").

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

**Vaughese et al.** discloses a series of hard disk drives anchored to the top sides of perforated metal plates 62 disposed above the top sides of molded plastic support trays 38 in parallel relationships therewith. Sets of spaced-apart elastomeric cushioning members 70 have upper portions captively retained between each metal plate 62 and its associated plastic tray 38, and lower portions projecting downwardly beyond the tray 38.

Fig. 4 shows cushioning members 70 being attached to plastic tray 38, while metal plate 62 rests on the upper surface of the cushioning members 70.

As admitted by the Examiner, **Vaughese et al.** fails to disclose any element which corresponds to the insulative sheet member of the present invention, the benefits of such being disclosed on page 24, lines 13-32 of the specification of the instant application.

The Examiner has cited **Genix et al.** for teaching an "inherently insulative sheet 22" between the disk drive unit 18 and mount 20.

Applicants respectfully disagree. Item 22 is a PC board 22, which contains at least SIMM connectors 26. Thus, PC board 22 is not electrically insulative, in contrast to the insulative sheet member 41 of the present invention, which is electrically insulative because it prevents moisture absorbed by vibration and/or shock absorbing members $42_1$, $42_2$, $42_3$, $43_1$, $43_2$ and $43_3$ from causing electrical short-circuits of any exposed circuits on the HDD 34, as disclosed on page 24, lines 25-32 of the instant application.

Accordingly, claims 1, 4, 17-19, and 24-27 have been amended to recite this distinction.

Thus, the §103(a) rejection should be withdrawn.

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, claims 1-31, as amended, are in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is requested.

If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney, at the telephone number indicated below, to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event this response is not timely filed, Applicants petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosures: Petition for Extension of Time
Amendment Transmittal
Notice of Appeal